

the wonderful Nazerene had been laid away.

The multitudes had dispersed. In the crucial hour the disciples had fled. There was silence at the tomb. I saw a woman coming with a basket. I knew her. It was Mary. Her face beamed love. How different from the time that seven demons led her into shame! "She hath been forgiven much," said I, "she also loveth much." And I thought, alas, we all of us have been hurt by devils and helped by his touch. And I thought of my people who had not yet learned to abide with him and so were tossed about by lusts and passions, and I longed for power to cast the demons out of people that they might learn to love, and I said, "O God, why not?" and the answer came, "Canst thou drink of the cup that I must drink, and be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" and I said in my haste, "Yea, Lord," and he said, "Thou shalt indeed if thou wouldst uplift men, but that thou mayest know of that cup, come see the place where the Lord lay, for there, too, thou must lie."

#### A COMMON TOMB.

I looked and saw the tomb. It was made by human hands. It fit a man. I saw the truth. Here lay a man made too of dust and he hungered and grew weary, and I said, "O my soul, why art thou cast down and why art thou disquieted within me? He whom thou strivest after wrestled also with flesh and blood and was in all points tempted as thou art, and when they mocked him it grieved him, and when they deserted him his heart yearned after them, and when they stoned him it hurt him, and when he saw the world in sin as thou dost see it his heart burned as thine—it burned and throbbed and bursted. O my soul, struggle on."

And as I looked I was glad. Glad he was tempted and overcame; glad he submitted for a time that he might be exalted; glad they closed his eyes and wept for him, as they will some day do for me, because I too may overcome. I too, in falling to the ground to die, shall yet bear fruit. I too may follow through the tomb to glory, and I am glad.

#### A CLOSER LOOK.

I looked again. I saw the linen lying. I held it up. The stains of blood upon it told of the wounds it covered. O my soul, come, look and learn. See the bruise on his face where prejudice struck him. See the cut on his lips where brutality hit him. See the place on his brow where mockery sat. See the wound in the heart where sin stabbed and cut. Art thou discouraged, reviled, misunderstood?

He was better than thou and suffered more, yet opened not his mouth save with love. "Poor, poor, dumb wounds." How eloquent in their silence! Look! they grow livid, they move, they speak! List, O list!

The message—"Love-suffereth-long,—and-is-kind;—love-envieth-not;—love-vaunteth-not-itself;—is-not-puffed-up;—doth-not-behave-itself-unseemly;—seeketh-not-its-own;—is-not-provoked;—thinketh-no-evil;—rejoiceth-not-in-iniquity-but-rejoiceth-in-the-truth;—beareth-all-things;—believeth-all-things;—hopeth-all-things;—endureth-all-things,—and this is my commandment, that ye love one-another-as I--have-loved-you." \* \* \*

#### ANOTHER MESSAGE.

The words ceased and burned into my heart, and as my face flushed I looked again and saw that the clothes were folded and spices were there. And as in a dream I saw in the gloom friends come silently to the cross and bear the body away. Tenderly they kissed the wounds, and one by one they turned away to weep awhile and then they lay him gently down. The fragrance of the spices filled the tomb and the room grew light. An angel appeared and beckoned, "Come and see," and I looked, and lo, the wounds of sin were healed by the ointment of love, and I said, "O my soul, why art thou cast down and why art thou disquieted within me? Have thy co-workers left thee in the crisis, and do thy words fall fruitless to the ground?"

Have faith in God. Here lay a better man and worse betrayed. Those lips that cursed denied against the will. The cowardly feet that fled bore hearts of love away. O my soul, true love lies deeper than the surface. The ocean froths and foams, yet bears up the ship and is calm beneath. Thy friend may seem thy enemy, yet he is thy friend. Thy brother may to day be led into evil and to-morrow lay down his life for the Savior. Be swift to help and slow to judge. Forgive and thou shalt be forgiven. Love suffereth long and is kind.

#### AN EMPTY TOMB.

In the radiance of that ministering love I looked, and lo, the tomb was empty save the angel, and I thought, Did I not see him killed and buried here? Where have they taken him? And the angel said, "You know not yet the meaning of this. Come and see." And I saw a man in the garden of God surrounded with pristine splendor, pure as the skies above, and he worshipped God. And sin as a serpent came and hissed a lie into his ear and the crown of life fell from the brow and they hid from God, yet vengeance came and drove them out and sorrow

came and sat in the doorway. And I saw men fighting and lusting and dying, and my heart was sick, and I said, Is there no hope? and a star wrote on the sky, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." And then a long, long pause, and then I heard the angels singing, "Glory, unto you is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord and King." I saw him grow, and in the wilderness alone he conquered self and Satan, and in the world he overcame the world. I saw him lifted up. I saw them seal the tomb and turned to weep with the world. "We trusted it had been he," and the angel said, "Weep not, but come and see;" and I saw that the tomb was empty, and I remembered that "thus it was written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations;" and I turned to rejoice and shout, "Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory." Let sun and moon and fields and beasts and men and all praise God.

#### A PRESENT CHRIST.

And as I sang he stood before me and I knew him. The same deep look of love was in his eyes. He held his healing hand outstretched, and I listened to hear him say, "Come, follow me," and I said, "Lord, I will follow for I need thee. I am flesh and weak and men are false and misunderstand me, and thou canst teach me how to love and forgive and be patient." But he answered in a voice divinely tender, "Thou needst not seek me far my child, for I am with you always, and behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man will open unto me I will come in and sup with him and he with me."

#### DIVISIONS.

J. A. RIDENOUR.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Matt. 7: 16.

That the present divided state of Christendom is wrong, and displeasing to Christ, the founder of the Christian religion, I have no doubt; for he prayed the Father that his followers might be *one* even as he and the Father were one.

And that the contradictions of the different creeds of the various sects, and their opposition to the plain, simple teaching of the word, has a most baneful influence with the world against Christianity, must also be apparent to every close observer. Jesus gave as a reason why he desired his followers to be one: "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

While we regret to see the Christian world cut up into contending factions, yet we do not feel that we are in any way responsible for it. John says: "They went out from us because they were not of